

Amendments to the Specification:

Paragraph [0004]

A bearing shell has been disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,363,557. The known bearing shell is cylindrical and has two halves, separated along the axis of the bearing shell. The two semi-cylindrical bearing shell halves are arranged around a crankshaft and mounted in the engine block. Mounting takes place both in the radial direction – via the insides of the shell of the bearing shells – and in the axial direction – via the outer surfaces, directed axially outward, of the flanges. Axial forces may be exerted on the crankshaft by the engine and the transmission.

Amendments to the Specification:

The word "cylinder" was changed to "cylindrical." Applicants submit that this is only to make the sentence more readable and conform to U.S. common usage and that the originally entered "cylinder" came about due to translation problems from the German. No new matter is being added by this amendment.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously amended) A bearing shell for use as a crankshaft thrust bearing, the bearing shell having a cylindrical shell, the inside surface of the shell forming a radial bearing surface for the crankshaft, and flanges at both ends of the shell directed radially outward, the outer surfaces of the flanges forming an axial bearing surface for the crankshaft, the bearing shell comprising:

at least one oil passage running circumferentially on an inside surface of the shell;

an axial groove running axially in the shell, said groove connecting said circumferential oil passage with at least one of the flanges wherein said groove is arranged on the outside of the shell; and

an orifice passing through the bearing shell connecting said oil passage to said groove.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The bearing shell of claim 1, further comprising: an opening passage through the flange coupled to said groove.

4. (original) The bearing shell of claim 1, further comprising clearance spaces formed at the flanges for oil distribution on the flanges.

5. (canceled)

6. (original) The bearing shell of claim 3, further comprising clearance spaces formed at the flanges for oil distribution on the flanges.